

NONRESIDENT VEHICLES
VEHICLE INDUSTRY REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

12

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Nonresident Vehicles

12.000 Introduction

A nonresident vehicle is a vehicle last registered in another state or country. A vehicle purchased in another state or country which has never been registered or titled anywhere is handled as an original. See Chapter 7, Miscellaneous Originals for more information.

- Any vehicle, including a vehicle registered to a nonresident owner, that is based in California or primarily used on California highways, **must** be registered in California.
- A vehicle is considered to be primarily or regularly used on California highways if it is located or operated in this state for a greater amount of time than it is located or operated in any other individual state during the registration period (CVC §4000.4).
- Any business having an established place of business within California and regularly using a vehicle subject to registration must immediately register the vehicle upon entry into this state (CVC §6702).
- Nonresident vehicle owners **must** register their vehicles in California within 20 days of the date they accept gainful employment **or** become a California resident.
 - A person working for wages or operating a business **is** gainfully employed. (CVC §6700)
 - Military personnel **are not** considered to be gainfully employed in California even when they hold a civilian job as well.
- When California registration is required, the application for original registration **must** be made to the department within 20 days following the date registration fees became due to avoid penalties. (CVC §4152.5)

EXCEPTION: California dealers have 30 days from the date of sale on the *Report of Sale–Used Vehicle* (REG 51) to submit fees without penalty. (CVC §9553c,1)

12.005 Definitions

Definitions

<i>Item</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Nonresident	A person who is not a resident of California (CVC §435). For example: Visitors or representatives of another state or country, and military personnel who are residents of other states.
Nonresident Vehicle	A vehicle that was last registered in another state or country. It does not necessarily have to be titled in that state.

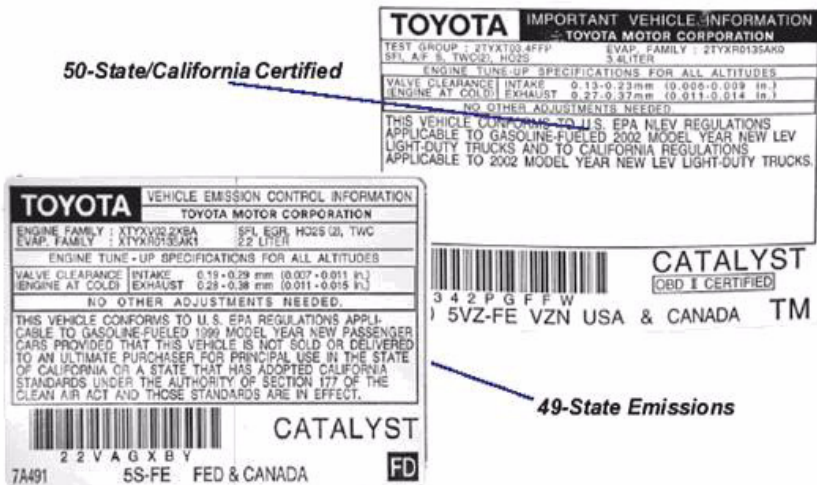
Definitions (continued)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Nonresident Military Personnel	<p>Any nonresident owner of a vehicle registered in a foreign state or country who is a member or spouse of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty within this state. (CVC §6701)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any person on continuous active duty in the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines, or Coast Guard is considered to be military personnel. This does not include reservists or civilian personnel employed by a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces.
Nonresident Student	<p>A student who is under 24 years of age, is a dependent, pays nonresident tuition, and is unemployed.</p> <p>EXCEPTION: A student may be employed in a position required as part of the student's educational field when the student's earnings are directed toward his or her education rather than being taken as an income.</p> <p>For example: A communications major working in a radio station or a medical student working in a hospital or laboratory.</p>
California Resident (CVC §516)	<p>Any person who manifests an intent to live or be located in this state on more than a temporary or transient basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence in California for six months or more in any 12-month period gives rise to a rebuttable presumption of residency. The following are evidence of residency for purposes of vehicle registration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address where registered to vote. Location of employment or place of business. Payment of resident tuition at a public institution of higher education. Attendance of dependents at a primary or secondary school. Filing of a homeowner's property tax exemption. Renting or leasing a home for use as a residence. Declaration of residency to obtain a license or any other privilege or benefit not ordinarily extended to a nonresident. Possession of a California driver license. <p>EXCEPTION: A nonresident student.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other acts, occurrences, or events that indicate presence in the state is more than temporary or transient.

12.010 Vehicle Emission Systems Definitions

Definitions

<i>Item</i>	<i>Definition</i>
California Vehicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A vehicle manufactured and certified to meet California emission standards and intended for first sale in California. • New and used California vehicles may be registered regardless of odometer mileage.
49-State Vehicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A vehicle manufactured to be first sold in all states except California and meeting only federal emission standards. • These vehicles cannot be registered to a California resident who acquired or purchased the vehicle with less than 7,500 odometer miles unless the owner qualifies for an exemption
50-State Vehicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A vehicle that meets both U.S. EPA and California emission and safety standards and is so labeled. • These vehicles may be registered regardless of the odometer mileage.
Direct Import Vehicle (See section 12.200)	<p>A vehicle that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not manufactured to meet U.S. federal safety requirements and/or U.S. or California emission standards, and • not intended by the manufacturer to be used or sold in the United States.
Emission Labels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To find out whether a car or truck is California Certified, check the emission label under the hood. For a motorcycle check the headset or frame. • The label should read that the vehicle conforms to California regulations, or that it is legal for sale in California.



Definitions (continued)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Prohibited transactions	<p>All new motor vehicles, motorcycles, and new motor vehicle engines powered by gasoline or diesel fuel, sold in California, must be factory equipped with an emission system approved by the California Air Resources Board (ARB) to meet California's stringent emission standards and test procedures.</p> <p>By law, no person who is a California resident, or who operates an established place of business in California shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • import, deliver, purchase, rent, lease, acquire, or • receive a new motor vehicle, new motor vehicle engine, or motor vehicle with a new motor vehicle engine, <p>for use and registration, or resale within this state unless such motor vehicle engine or motor vehicle has been certified to comply with existing California emission standards or unless the owner qualifies for an exemption. (H&SC §43150-43156)</p>

Exemptions (H&SC §43151[b & c])

For questions regarding 49-state vehicle policies, contact the California Air Resources Board (ARB) Public Inquiry Unit at 1-800-242-4450.

Exemptions

<i>Transaction</i>	<i>Requirements</i>
<p>A vehicle is acquired by a California resident for the purpose of replacing a vehicle registered to him/her which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • was damaged, or • became inoperative beyond reasonable repair, or • was stolen while located in the other state <p>provided the replacement vehicle is acquired at the time of the occurrence.</p>	<p>The usual registration requirements, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A <i>Statement of Facts</i> (REG 256F) completed by the owner. • Documented evidence of exemption, as described on the REG 256F. <p>NOTE: This exemption applies to new 49-state vehicles and direct import vehicles titled in another state and converted to meet federal EPA/DOT requirements prior to entering California.</p> <p>It does not extend to direct import vehicles imported from a foreign country.</p>

Exemptions (continued)

<i>Transaction</i>	<i>Requirements</i>
A vehicle is acquired by a California resident as a result of inheritance, divorce, dissolution, or legal separation. NOTE: This exemption applies only to the ARB certification. Evidence of federal conversion is required if one of the above exemptions is requested for a new direct import vehicle.	The usual registration requirements, and : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A REG 256F completed by the owner. • Copies of the court documents.
The owner/resident of another state brings a vehicle registered to him/her in the other state into California.	The usual registration requirements and a REG 256F completed by the owner.
A military person brings a vehicle into California which was registered to that military person in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the state of his/her last active duty station, or • his/her state of residence. 	

12.020 Date Fees Become Due on a Nonresident Vehicle

Dealer Inventory Vehicles

- California registration fees for a nonresident vehicle acquired by a dealer (with or without current registration) become due on the **date of sale to a retail buyer**.
- The dealer has 30 days from the date of sale on the *Report of Sale–Used Vehicle* (REG 51) to submit the fees to the department. (CVC §9553c, 1)

Other Nonresident Vehicles

Use the following chart to determine when California registration fees become due.

When California Fees Become Due

<i>If the nonresident vehicle is...</i>	<i>Then California fees become due on...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • currently registered, and • was brought into California by the owner named on the nonresident registration documents, and • will be registered in that owner's name EXCEPTION: Commercial vehicles (see below)	The date that occurs first: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The date the owner establishes residency, or • The date the owner accepts gainful employment in California, or • The date the out-of-state registration expires.

When California Fees Become Due (continued)

<i>If the nonresident vehicle is...</i>	<i>Then California fees become due on...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not currently registered, <i>and</i> • was brought into California by the owner named on the nonresident registration documents, <i>and</i> • will be registered in that owner's name 	The date of entry into California
acquired or purchased in California	The date acquired (the date of entry on the application will show "unknown")
acquired or purchased outside California	The date of entry.
a commercial vehicle	
operated by a nonresident student 24 years old or older	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • owned by an active military member, <i>and</i> • not currently registered in his/her home state or last duty station state 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • owned by an active military member, <i>and</i> • is currently registered in his/her home state or last duty station state 	The date following expiration of the out-of-state registration.

NOTE: Penalties are due if the fees are not paid within **20 days** of the date fees become due. (CVC §4152.5)

Exception: Dealer transactions.

12.025 Nonresident Privileges/Reciprocity

Use of Out-of-State License Plates

The following applies to the operation of nonresident vehicles, and the use of out-of-state license plates in California:

- A nonresident owner may operate a vehicle (other than a commercial vehicle) in California until he/she accepts gainful employment in this state **or** establishes residency in this state, whichever occurs first, **if** the vehicle is registered and displays valid license plates issued to that owner by the foreign jurisdiction where he/she was a resident

12.025 Nonresident Privileges/Reciprocity

Use of Out-of-State License Plates, *continued*

- A nonresident owner of a vehicle may operate, or permit operation of, a vehicle in California without obtaining California registration if the vehicle is registered in the owner's place of residence **and** displays valid license plates issued by that state.

IMPORTANT: This exemption **does not** apply if the nonresident owner rents, leases, lends, or otherwise furnishes the vehicle to a California resident for regular use on California highways.

- Any vehicle owned by a nonresident and furnished to a California resident for his or her regular use within this state **must be** registered in California within 20 days after first operation of the vehicle within this state by the resident. (CVC §4000.4)
- If the nonresident registration **does not** indicate an expiration date, it will be considered to expire one year from the date of first use of the vehicle in California.
 - Fees are due immediately if the owner accepts gainful employment in, or establishes residency in California.
 - The fees **must be** paid within 20 days. (CVC §4152.5)
- A nonresident owner having an established place of business in California must register the vehicle in California.
 - Fees must be paid within 20 days of date of entry. (CVC §6702)
- A nonresident owner may renew the vehicle registration in his/her residence state and also may operate the vehicle in California during the grace period provided by the residence state without the vehicle becoming subject to California registration.
- Fees **are due** from the statutory expiration date and **must be** paid within 20 days to avoid penalties, if:
 - the vehicle becomes subject to registration during the grace period (**For example:** the owner accepts gainful employment or becomes a resident), **or**
 - the owner decides to obtain California registration. (CVC §4152.5)
- If the foreign registration has no grace period, the vehicle is subject to registration immediately upon first operation after the statutory expiration date unless the owner has evidence of renewal in his/her residence state made either before the statutory expiration date or before first operation in California after the statutory expiration date.
 - The registration fees **must be** paid within 20 days of the expiration date of the nonresident registration to avoid penalties. (CVC §4152.5)

12.025 Nonresident Privileges/Reciprocity, *continued***Nonresident Students**

- A nonresident student aged 23 or younger operating a nonresident vehicle that displays valid registration/plates in the student's home state is exempt from California registration.
- The nonresident student may possess a California driver license or operate on a valid driver license from his/her state.
 - If the nonresident student applies for California registration, all requirements for California registration are applicable.
- Nonresident students **24 years of age and older are not** exempt from California registration requirements, and any vehicle operated by the student must be registered in California.
 - All California emission and registration requirements must be satisfied.

Military Personnel (CVC §6701)

Military personnel, including California residents, who are members or the spouse of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces returning from active duty in a foreign state **and** both military and civilian members of NATO who are not citizens of the United States, are permitted to operate a vehicle in California with valid license plates from either:

- the individual's home state or country, **or**
- the state or country where the individual was regularly assigned and stationed when the license plates were issued.
 - For this purpose, Maryland or Virginia will be considered the state where stationed for military personnel assigned and stationed in Washington, D.C.

To qualify for this exemption:

- The vehicle **must** display valid license plates issued by a foreign jurisdiction.
- The registration and plates **must** be issued to the military person or his/her spouse.
- The vehicle registration and license plates **must** have been issued by the foreign jurisdiction where the military person was last regularly assigned and stationed for duty by military orders **or** by a jurisdiction claimed as the permanent state of residence by the nonresident military person.

NOTE: Military orders **do not** include military orders for leave, for temporary duty, or for any other assignment of any nature requiring the military person's presence outside the foreign jurisdiction where the owner was regularly assigned and stationed for duty.

12.025 Nonresident Privileges/Reciprocity, *continued***Military Personnel (CVC §6701), *continued***

- If the vehicle is a motor vehicle, the owner or driver has in force one of the forms of financial responsibility specified in CVC §16021.

NOTE: This section applies to all vehicles, including trailer coaches, owned by the military person or spouse **except** any commercial vehicle used in any business manner wherein the military person or spouse receives compensation.

Officers of the Public Health Service are entitled to all rights, privileges, immunities, and benefits provided under the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act of 1940. They **do not** have to be on duty with the Armed Forces.

Discharged Military Personnel (CVC §6703)

Any person who enters California after being discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces is exempt from California registration for passenger vehicles, trailer coaches, and utility trailers provided the vehicle has valid out-of-state plates **and** registration.

Registration fees become due when the person accepts gainful employment in California or becomes a California resident and **must be** paid within 20 days following that date to avoid penalties. (CVC §4152.5)

Commercial Vehicles Owned by Military Personnel (CVC §6701)

A commercial vehicle owned by a military person or spouse may be operated in California without obtaining California registration for the vehicle provided it bears valid registration in the owner's home state or the state of military assignment at the time of registration, and it **is not** used in a trade or business.

EXCEPTION: Any commercial vehicle owned by military personnel used in any business manner wherein the military person receives compensation **is** subject to California registration. (CVC §6701[c])

Nonresident Commercial Vehicles (other than those owned by military)

The nonresident owner of a foreign commercial vehicle is granted the same privileges and freedom from registration and payment of fees imposed by the *California Vehicle Code* (CVC):

- as the foreign jurisdiction in which the vehicle is registered/licensed grants to like vehicles registered under this code, **or**
- as provided in reciprocity agreements, arrangements, or declarations made commencing with CVC §8000.

12.025 Nonresident Privileges/Reciprocity, *continued***Nonresident Commercial Vehicles (other than those owned by military),
*continued***

Reciprocity between California and other states is based upon:

- Agreements and arrangements completed between the Reciprocity Commission or the International Registration Plan Agreement and authorized representatives of other states.
- Declarations by the Reciprocity Commission.

The conditions of reciprocity are indicated in the following chart.

<i>If the nonresident vehicle is a...</i>	<i>then the vehicle...</i>
commercial vehicle from a state which does not have INTERSTATE reciprocity	is subject to fees from the date of entry.
commercial vehicle that operates INTRASTATE	is subject to registration in California. EXCEPTION: Vehicles base-plated in Hawaii.
commercial vehicle from a state with which California has INTERSTATE reciprocity	may enter California and be parked without fees becoming due. Any subsequent INTRASTATE operation causes fees to be due immediately. EXCEPTION: Vehicles base-plated in Hawaii.
commercial vehicle registered as an automobile in the owner's home state	is treated as an automobile for the purpose of determining when registration is required.
recreational vehicle	is treated as an automobile for the purpose of determining when registration is required even if the vehicle is registered as a commercial vehicle in the home state.
station wagon	is treated as a noncommercial vehicle for the purpose of determining when registration is required even if the vehicle is registered as a commercial vehicle in the home state.
commercial vehicle base-plated in Mexico or Newfoundland NOTE: Mexico and Newfoundland do not have reciprocity agreements with California.	must be registered for the full year. (CVC §9711) Interstate registration may be obtained in conjunction with full-year registration.

12.040 Basic Nonresident Checklist

The basic requirements for a nonresident vehicle are listed below.

Some nonresident transactions in this chapter will have additional requirements; some will not require all of the items listed.

Application for Title or Registration (REG 343)

Follow the chart to complete the REG 343.

<i>Section</i>	<i>Procedures</i>
(1) Owner Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Print the true full name(s) of the registered owner(s), including the DL/ID #; if an owner has not been issued a California DL/ID #, show the out-of-state DL/ID # and the state of issuance. • Check the appropriate “and” or “or” box. • Enter the owner’s complete residence or business address and mailing address, if different. • Complete the lessee’s address and trailer coach location address, if applicable.
(2) Title holder Information	<p>Enter the name and address of the lien holder/legal owner or the word “none”, as appropriate, and initial the entry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name and address for an Electronic Lien and Title (ELT) lien holder must be exactly as shown in the latest ELT listing issued by the department. • A rubber stamp, at least 12-point type, may be used to enter the lien holder name and address, as long as the impression is legible.
(3) Cost and Operation Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter the odometer information and check the appropriate box. • Complete all cost and date information and answer questions A-D. • Show “unknown” as the <i>date the vehicle entered or was first operated in California</i> if the vehicle was purchased in California.
(4) Owner(s) Signatures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All co-owners must sign this form or signatures may be signed by power-of-attorney. • For leased vehicles, the signature of the lessor is required. • Complete the date and telephone number boxes.

12.040 Basic Nonresident Checklist, *continued****Verification of Vehicle (REG 343/31)***

- Must be completed by a DMV employee, Auto Club employee, a licensed Vehicle Verifier, or a peace officer who has been trained to perform vehicle verifications.
- The form must be completed in its entirety, with no alterations or erasures.
- See Chapter 7, Miscellaneous Originals for Nonresident Vehicle Verification Exemptions.

Evidence of Ownership

The documents presented to the department **must** establish the **complete** chain of ownership and the correct legal owner, if any, for the nonresident vehicle.

- Generally, all states issue a title to most motor vehicles.
- Some states **do not** issue titles for non-motorized vehicles, such as trailers.
- In the past, some states did not issue titles to certain older model motor vehicles and trailers.
- Dealers may contact a local DMV office to verify whether or not a title would have been issued for a vehicle, because of its age or type.

NOTE: Connecticut does not require issuance of a Connecticut title on vehicles manufactured prior to 1981. Ownership may be transferred using a *Connecticut Supplemental Assignment of Ownership form* (CT DMV form Q-1).

One of the following must be submitted as proof of ownership for a nonresident vehicle if the ownership of the vehicle is changing, or if a California title is being requested:

1. Original Certificate of Title in the owner's name or properly endorsed for transfer by the owner/seller with bills of sale necessary to establish the chain of ownership.
 - A bill of sale **is acceptable** in lieu of the seller's signature on the title.
 - The title must show no lien holder, **or** include the lienholder's release, **or** the application (REG 343) must show the current lienholder/legal owner.
 - A lien satisfied is acceptable in lieu of the lienholder's release on the title.

NOTE: A lien release is **not** required when the lienholder and the reposessor are the same for a:

- Florida title submitted with a Florida Repossession Certificate.
- Georgia title is submitted with a Georgia Repossession Certificate.
- Texas title submitted with a Texas Repossession Affidavit.

12.040 Basic Nonresident Checklist, *continued***OR**

2. Certificate of Registration with a letter from the non-title state indicating that:
 - a foreign title was surrendered to that state (not required if the registration indicates that the foreign title was surrendered), and
 - bills of sale as necessary to complete the chain of ownership.

OR

3. A bill of sale or dealer invoice to the registered owner named on the nonresident registration which:
 - identifies the vehicle by make and identification number,
 - states that the vehicle is/was free of all liens and encumbrances when sold to the buyer, **and**
 - indicates the vehicle was paid for in full, plus bills of sale as necessary to establish chain of ownership for the vehicle.

NOTE: A lien shown with the notation “paid” and the lienholder’s name and a countersignature is sufficient evidence that the lien **is** satisfied.

OR

4. The original or certified copy of a conditional sales contract marked “paid” with the lienholder’s name and a countersignature **or** cleared by a *Lien Satisfied* (REG 166).
 - An original or certified copy of a dealer invoice that describes the vehicle by make and identification number, shows the dealer’s name/address in the invoice letterhead, gives the buyer’s name(s), and is marked “paid” and countersigned by the dealer may be substituted for the conditional sales contract.
 - Additional bills of sale as necessary to establish chain of ownership may also be required.

OR

5. Foreign country title documents.

NOTE: In the cases where a title was not issued in the foreign state, the documents mentioned above may be submitted as proof of ownership in lieu of a Certificate of Title.

- If a title was issued, there is no alternative.
 - The title must be surrendered or a bond must be obtained if there is a change of ownership, or if the owner requests a California title.
- If there is no change of ownership and the title is not surrendered, a Non-title (Goldenrod) registration may be obtained. See section 12.050 for further information.

12.040 Basic Nonresident Checklist, *continued***Odometer**

For a change of ownership, the odometer mileage disclosure, if applicable, may be completed:

- on a complying foreign title document, *or*
- on a *Vehicle/Vessel Transfer and Reassignment form* (REG 262), *or*
- on an out-of-state Secure Power of Attorney, *or*
- other odometer disclosure document that meets the odometer requirements.

If no change of ownership is occurring, the odometer mileage is shown on the *Application for Title and Registration* (REG 343), Section 3.

Smog Certification

- A valid smog certification is required for a nonresident vehicle.
 - The smog certification must have been obtained within the last 90 days for an individual, or two years for a dealer if the vehicle has been in dealer inventory.
- Smog exemptions for newer vehicles (6 model years old or less) are **not** applicable for non-resident vehicles. A smog certification is required.
- Smog certification is not required if the vehicle is powered by diesel or electricity.
- Transfer smog exemptions, such as transfers between qualified relatives, are **not applicable** for nonresident vehicles.

Use Tax

Use Tax must be collected for a nonresident vehicle being brought into California based on the following:

<i>If purchased...</i>	<i>Use tax is due if vehicle entered California within...</i>
On or after September 30, 2008	365 days
Between July 1, 2007 and September 29, 2008	90 days
Between October 1, 2004 and June 30, 2007	365 days

- If an applicant paid sales tax in the other state, submit a *Statement of Facts* (REG 256) with proof of the sales tax paid to the other state.
 - The difference between the amount of tax due in California and the amount paid to the other state must be submitted with the application.
- Customers requesting an exemption must contact the Board of Equalization for a *Certificate of Use Tax Clearance* (BOE 111 or BOE 111B).

12.040 Basic Nonresident Checklist, *continued***Miscellaneous Nonresident Requirements****Report of Sale- Used Vehicle:**

- *Report of Sale–Used Vehicle* (REG 51) must be completed for all California dealer retail sales and submitted with the nonresident application. See Chapter 8, Report of Sale-Used Vehicles for additional information.
- Only one co-owner signature is required on the REG 51.

Reassignment of Special Plates:

The new owner can assign a special plate to the vehicle by completing a *Special License Plate application* (REG 17A) indicating from which vehicle the special plates were removed.

Additional fees may be required depending on the type of special plate being reassigned. See Chapter 21, Special Plates for additional information.

Nonresident Military Exemption:

- Completion of the form *Non-Resident Military Exemption Statement* (REG 5045) exempts the vehicle from collection of the Vehicle License Fee only.
- The form must be completed and signed by the non-resident military person, the spouse, or other close relative and must show the commanding officer's name and telephone number.
- The military person must be shown as the registered owner and the duty station **must** be located in California.

Insurance Requirements:

- Providing proof of insurance is not required for nonresident vehicle applications.
 - The owner will be required to have insurance reported within 30 days of receiving a registration card for the vehicle or the registration will be cancelled.
- Vehicles that are covered by a commercial or business policy, such as vehicles registered to a company, corporation, LLC, or DBA, etc., should complete and submit with the application:
 - a *Commercial Insurance Notification* (REG 5085), **and**
 - a copy of the evidence of financial responsibility.

12.040 Basic Nonresident Checklist, *continued***Miscellaneous Nonresident Requirements, *continued*****Weight Certification (Commercial Vehicles):**

One of the following is required for a commercial vehicle:

- Weight certificate issued by a California certified public weight master *for vehicles weighing less than 10,000 pounds unladen.*

OR

- Estimated unladen weight shown on a *Statement of Facts* (REG 256) and a properly completed *Declaration of Gross Vehicle Weight/Combined Gross Vehicle Weight* (REG 4008) *for vehicles weighing 10,001 pounds or more unladen.*

OR

- The “unladen”, “empty”, “shipping” or “scale” weight shown on the nonresident title or registration *for vehicles weighing 6,000 pounds or less unladen.*

Gross Vehicle Weight/Combines Gross Vehicle Weight (Commercial Vehicles):

- Commercial vehicles over 6,001 pounds unladen require a *Declaration of Gross Vehicle Weight/Combined Gross Vehicle Weight* (REG 4008) to be completed and signed by the new owner, even if the gross vehicle weight or combined gross vehicle weight (GVW/CGVW) is less than 10,000 pounds. (Not required for pickups)
- Commercial vehicles operating at 10,001 or greater GVW/CGVW must display a CVRA weight decal and year sticker on each side of the vehicle indicating the highest GVW/CGVW the vehicle may be operated as declared by the owner. A CVRA decal fee must also be submitted.

Deceased nonresident owner:

- The surviving owner of a nonresident vehicle registered as “Joint Tenants with Right of Survivorship (JTRS)” may obtain California registration in his/her name by submitting a death certificate for the deceased owner with the regular nonresident clearance requirements.
- Letters Administration or Letters Testamentary issued in California or another state may be used to release ownership on a foreign state title.
 - The vehicle does not need to be transferred to the heir in the other state.
- A transfer without probate **cannot** be used for any vehicle titled in another state.
 - The vehicle must be transferred to the heir’s name in the other state before California registration can be obtained.

12.050 Nontitle (Goldenrod) Registration (CVC §4307)

A nontransferable nontitle (goldenrod) registration may be issued when out-of-state titling documents **are not** submitted at the time of application for California registration and there is no change of ownership.

The registration requirements are the same as shown in section 12.040 with the exception of the title/ownership document.

- The *Application for Title or Registration* (REG 343) should reflect the name of any legal owner/lienholder whether or not it appears on the nonresident registration.
- The goldenrod registration **must be** issued to the registered owner (consistent with the department's true name requirement) shown on the nonresident registration card **or** in the records of the nonresident registration jurisdiction.
- If an owner's name has changed, both the new **and** former names must be shown on the *Application for Title or Registration* (REG 343) with "AKA" to provide continuity of ownership when the outstanding title is later presented.

For example: *Mary Smith AKA Mary Jones*. A name statement on the *Statement of Facts* (REG 256) must be completed and submitted with the application.

- When a nontransferable registration is issued, vehicle ownership **cannot** be changed until the nonresident title or evidence of ownership is presented to the department.

A sample of the nontransferable registration card is shown below.

REGISTRATION CARD VALID FROM: 11/10/95 TO: 11/12/96									
MAKE	YR MODEL	YR 1ST SOLD	W/F CLASS	*YR	TYPE VEH	TYPE LIC	LICENSE NUMBER		
FORD	B7	00	CJ	95	130	91	3MAA191		
BODY TYPE MODEL	MP	MO					VEHICLE ID NUMBER		
CP	G	AY					1G4AH69A4BH205333		
TYPE VEHICLE USE	DATE ISSUED		CC/ALDO	BY FEE REC'D	PIC	STICER ISSUED			
AUTOMOBILE	11/15/95		34	11/15/95	9	H1001531			
REGISTERED OWNER							AMOUNT PAID		
BONZO DOG							\$ 549.00		
2415 FIRST AVE									
SACRAMENTO									
CA 95818									
LIENHOLDER									
				AMOUNT DUE	AMOUNT REC'D				
				\$ 549.00	CASH : 549.00				
					CHCK :				
					CRDT :				
NO TITLE ISSUED/VEHICLE NOT TRANSFERABLE** ***CONTACT DMV FOR CA TITLE INFO									
B00 131 AB 0054900 0001 CS B00 111595 91 3MAA191 333									

12.055 Change of Name on a Nontitle (Goldenrod) Registration

When a goldenrod registration has been issued and the applicant has a change of name (only), the following are required:

- The applicant must complete the Name Statement section on the *Statement of Facts* (REG 256).
- An *Application for Title or Registration* (REG 343) must be completed showing both the new **and** former name on the goldenrod registration.
 - This provides unquestionable continuity of ownership when the outstanding title is presented at a later date and complies with the department’s “true name” requirements.

For example: *Mary Jones AKA Mary Smith*

- No fee is charged for the change. A new goldenrod registration is issued.

12.060 Conversion from Nontitle (Goldenrod) to California Title**Registered Owner(s) remains the same and there is no lien holder**

The requirements for converting from nontitle (goldenrod) registration to a California title, when the name of the owner on the nontitle registration **is not** changing and there is no lienholder, are:

- The last-issued California goldenrod registration, if available.
- The last-issued nonresident (or California) title.
- A smog certification, if due for biennial renewal.
- No fee, unless renewal fees are due.

Registered Owner(s) remains the same and there is a change of lien holder

The requirements for converting from nontitle (goldenrod) registration to a California title when **only** the name of the lien holder on the nontitle registration **is** changing are:

- The last-issued California goldenrod registration, if available.
- The last-issued nonresident (or California) title with a release on the title by the lien holder or a lien satisfied document.
- A smog certification, if due for biennial renewal.
- Transfer fee, plus any other fees due.

NOTE: A transfer fee **is not** due when a title from the State of Washington is presented for a goldenrod conversion, because Washington issues a clear title to the registered owner when the lien is satisfied.

12.060 Conversion from Nontitle (Goldenrod) to California Title, *continued***Transfer of Ownership**

When a transfer of ownership occurs in conjunction with conversion of a goldenrod registration to California title, the requirements are:

- The last-issued California goldenrod registration, if available.
- The last-issued nonresident (or California) title properly endorsed for transfer with bill(s) of sale, as needed, to establish the chain of ownership from the owner of record to the new owner/applicant.
 - If the title is not available or the title has no place for the owner to sign as the new applicant, an *Application for Title or Registration* (REG 343) is required as the top document, supported by bills of sale as necessary.

IMPORTANT: The diligent effort process cannot be used to transfer a vehicle with goldenrod registration; nonresident evidence of ownership must be submitted or a bond is required.

- The legal owner shown on the title **must** release on the title **or** a lien satisfied is required.
 - The department’s *Lien Satisfied* (REG 166) may be utilized. Notarization on the REG 166 is not required.
 - The new legal owner/lien holder name and address information **must** be entered on the title or REG 343.
- *Report of Sale–Used Vehicle* (REG 51), if applicable
- Odometer Disclosure, if applicable
- A smog certification, if appropriate.
- A transfer fee and any other fees due.

12.075 Vehicles with California Registration and Nonresident Title Only

Some states (Oregon, for example) issue “title only” for a vehicle registered in California to record a lien on the vehicle held by a resident of that state.

To obtain a California title, the nonresident “title only” and a *Statement of Facts* (REG 256) completed by the owner stating there are no liens against the vehicle other than shown on the accompanying documents are required.

12.080 Nonresident Vehicle Previously Registered in California

If a nonresident vehicle was previously registered in California within the department’s four-year file retention period, **in addition to the basic nonresident requirements**, the following will apply.

12.080 Nonresident Vehicle Previously Registered in California, *continued***Vehicle Registered in a Title-Issuing State**

- The title from that state **or** the California Certificate of Title must be submitted.
- If the California title is submitted, the nonresident registration must indicate that a title was **not** issued **or** a letter from the nonresident registration jurisdiction verifying that state did not issue a title must be included.

NOTE: An *Application for Duplicate Title* (REG 227) is not acceptable unless the application contains evidence that a California title was issued and a nonresident title was **not** issued.

- If there have been no alterations/changes to the vehicle, the owner may complete a *Statement of Facts* (REG 256) in lieu of obtaining a weight certificate.
- Any previously issued California license plates retained by the applicant **must be** surrendered unless the plates qualify as Year of Manufacture (YOM) plates.

Vehicle Registered in a Nontitle State

- The California Certificate of Title **or** a bill of sale to the person shown as owner on the nonresident registration.
- The nonresident registration indicating a title was **not** issued **or** a letter from the nonresident registration jurisdiction verifying the California Certificate of Title was picked up by that state.
- If there have been no alterations/changes to the vehicle, the owner may complete a *Statement of Facts* (REG 256) in lieu of obtaining a weight certificate.
- Any previously issued California license plates retained by the applicant **must be** surrendered.

Fees**California registration is still valid:**

Only the re-registration fee is due. *See Appendix 1F for the fee.*

- The currently assigned registration expiration date will be retained.
- If the expiration date is within 30 days, renewal fees may also be due.

California registration is expired:

All appropriate fees are due including the nonresident service fee.

- The expiration date will be assigned based on the information on the nonresident application.

12.090 Registration by Out-of-State California Resident

A *California resident* located out of state may register his/her vehicle in this state prior to bringing the vehicle into California.

Examples: The applicant is:

- in the military and wishes to register the vehicle in his/her state of residency rather than the state in which they are stationed; **or**
- purchasing a vehicle and will be out-of-state for awhile before returning to California but wants plates on the vehicle right away.

In addition to the basic nonresident clearance requirements, the following are required:

- A *Vehicle Verification* (REG 31) completed and signed by a regularly employed peace officer from the state in which the vehicle is located.
—The odometer mileage and emission labels information **must be** recorded.

NOTE: Any authorized vehicle verifier, including a peace officer, can complete the emission label verification.

- A *Statement of Facts* (REG 256) from the applicant showing his/her California address and certifying he/she is a bona fide resident of California.
- A *Statement of Facts–New, Nonresident, or Imported Vehicle* (REG 256F) from the applicant stating the vehicle is equipped to meet California emission control standards or will be properly equipped when the vehicle enters California.
- Fees are due from the date of application and cannot be refunded if the vehicle never enters California.

NOTE: 49-state vehicles and motorcycles with less than 7,500 odometer miles **cannot** be registered in California unless they are California-certified vehicles. Refer to Section 12.005 for additional information.

12.100 Interstate Registration (CVC §4303)

Interstate registration allows a vehicle owner to register a vehicle in California and at the same time retain valid out-of-state registration.

- It **does not** prevent any vehicle from being registered in California on a nontransferable (goldenrod) basis.
- Generally, interstate registration is obtained for nonresident commercial vehicles operating in more than one state without reciprocity. However, automobiles may also be registered on an interstate basis.
- California residents may obtain interstate registration for vehicles registered in another state; but should not be encouraged to pay fees in both states when he/she is exempt from registering in the other state.

12.100 Interstate Registration (CVC §4303), *continued***Registration Requirements**

- An *Application for Title or Registration* (REG 343) completed by the applicant.
- *Vehicle verification* (REG 343/31).
- Evidence of nonresident registration.
 - Acceptable evidence is a current out-of-state registration card **or** a letter, FAX, or wire addressed to the department from the nonresident registration jurisdiction showing evidence of current registration. (The applicant must cover any expense of this verification.)
- Weight Certification (Commercial Vehicles). One of the following is required for a commercial vehicle:
 - Weight certificate issued by a California certified public weight master **for vehicles weighing less than 10,000 pounds unladen.**
 - OR**
 - Estimated unladen weight shown on a *Statement of Facts* (REG 256) and a properly completed *Declaration of Gross Vehicle Weight/Combined Gross Vehicle Weight* (REG 4008) **for vehicles weighing 10,001 pounds or more unladen.**
 - OR**
 - The “unladen”, “empty”, “shipping” or “scale” weight shown on the nonresident registration **for vehicles weighing 6,000 pounds or less unladen.**
- Gross Vehicle Weight/Combined Gross Vehicle Weight (Commercial Vehicles)
 - Commercial vehicles over 6,001 pounds unladen require a *Declaration of Gross Vehicle Weight/Combined Gross Vehicle Weight* (REG 4008) to be completed and signed by the new owner, even if the gross vehicle weight or combined gross vehicle weight (GVW/CGVW) is less than 10,000 pounds. (Not required for pickups)
 - Commercial vehicles operating at 10,001 or greater GVW/CGVW must display a CVRA weight decal and year sticker on each side of the vehicle indicating the highest GVW/CGVW the vehicle may be operated as declared by the owner. A CVRA decal fee must also be submitted.
- A smog certification, if appropriate.
- Full-year registration fees and any California use tax due.

Interstate registration is renewed in the same manner as other California registration. The nonresident registration **is not** inspected by the department for renewals.

12.100 Interstate Registration (CVC §4303), *continued***International Traffic Vehicles**

International traffic vehicles are **heavy duty** commercial vehicles which are allowed to import and/or pick up merchandise and leave as expeditiously as possible.

- They enter California for the sole purpose of doing business and do not intend to remain here.
- The owner/driver of an international traffic vehicle **must** present proof of insurance from a company authorized to do business in California and obtain interstate registration.

NOTE: Light weight pickup trucks and/or automobiles **are not** included in this classification. These vehicles are subject to normal registration requirements.

Vehicles Base-Plated in Mexico or Newfoundland

Proof of insurance **must be** verified for commercial vehicles weighing more than 7,000 pounds unladen which are base-plated in Mexico or Newfoundland.

Minimum insurance coverage for these vehicles is:

- \$250,000 public liability per person.
- \$500,000 public liability per accident.
- \$100,000 property damage.
- \$600,000 combined total coverage.

Additional coverage **is required** for commercial vehicles hauling petroleum or hazardous waste. (CVC §16500.5 and *Public Utilities Code* §3631)

12.110 Conversion of Interstate to Regular Registration

Conversion of interstate registration to regular registration is the same as conversion of goldenrod registration, except that the current nonresident registration and foreign plates **must be** surrendered.

12.120 Direct Import Vehicles (H&SC §39024.6)

- A Direct Import vehicle is a light-duty motor vehicle:
 - manufactured outside of the United States,
 - which was not intended by the manufacturer for use or sale in the United States, **and**
 - has not been certified by the Air Resources Board.

12.120 Direct Import Vehicles (H&SC §39024.6), *continued*

- These vehicles may have foreign emission labels and/or foreign safety labels, or no labels.
 - All **new** direct import vehicles **must** be issued the Non-USA Vehicle Certification by a facility authorized by the California Air Resources Board (ARB).
 - A smog certification **is not** required when the Non-USA Vehicle Certification is submitted.
 - A direct import vehicle is considered “new” if it enters California or is obtained by a California resident before it is **two** years old.

It is considered “used” if it is obtained by a California resident or brought into California by a nonresident after it is two years old.
- The **age** (**not** the year model) of a direct import vehicle is determined by the following:
 - **First**—by the year model indicated in the vehicle identification number (VIN).
 - **Second**—if the VIN does **not** indicate the year model, the date the manufacturer delivered the vehicle as shown on the foreign titling document is used.
 - **Third**—if the first and second methods **cannot be** used, the year shown on the foreign titling document is used.
 - **Last**—if **none** of the options shown above can be applied, the calendar year in which the foreign titling document was issued is used.

Registration and/or Titling Requirements

All imported vehicles require the usual nonresident registration documentation outlined in this chapter. **In addition**, an application for registration of an imported vehicle **must** include the following customs, safety, and emissions standards:

- Evidence the vehicle has cleared U.S. Customs. U.S. Customs forms 7501, 3461, 6059, 3299, or 3311, stamped or endorsed by U.S. Customs, or Department of Defense form 1252 are acceptable.
- Evidence of compliance with U.S. Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) unless the vehicle is 25 or more years old. Satisfactory evidence is **one** of the following:
 - The Federal Certification Label affixed to the vehicle certifying the vehicle conforms to all U.S. Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS).
 - A copy of the letter from the manufacturer certifying the vehicle complies with U.S. FMVSS and U.S. Emissions Standards. (This is usually attainable *only* for vehicles from Canada.)

A manufacturer’s letter that states, “The vehicle complies with U.S. FMVSS and U.S. Emissions Standards except for minor labeling” may also be acceptable.

12.120 Direct Import Vehicles (H&SC §39024.6, *continued*)**Registration and/or Titling Requirements, *continued***

- A copy of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) bond release letter issued by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).
- A Certificate of Conformance issued by a California Air Resources Board (ARB) licensed laboratory.
- Evidence of compliance with U.S. EPA and/or California emission standards. Any of the following are acceptable:
 - A U.S. EPA and/or California emission label affixed to the vehicle.
 - A Certificate of Conformance issued by a laboratory licensed by the ARB. No smog certification is required if this document is submitted for original registration.
 - A letter from the manufacturer stating the vehicle complies with U.S. FMVSS and U.S. Emissions requirements (usually only attainable for Canadian vehicles).
- Contact ARB at (800) 242-4450 or e-mail at **helpline@arb.ca.gov**, if the vehicle is:
 - a 1968 or newer year model auto or commercial vehicle, **or**
 - a 1978 or newer year model motorcycle that does **not** comply with U.S. emission requirements, **and/or**
 - is a vehicle less than 25 years old that does **not** comply with U.S. FMVSS.
- A smog certification, if normally required.
- Fees due.

NOTE: There are no Air Resources Board programs to convert new vehicles (less than two years old), motorcycles, off highway vehicles (OHV), and diesel-powered vehicles to California emission standards.

Vehicles less than two years old cannot be converted to comply with U.S. safety and U.S. and/or California emission standards, **and** cannot be registered for on-highway or off-highway use.

For questions or assistance about Direct Import Vehicles:

- contact the department's Technical Compliance Section at (916) 657-6795,
- contact the Air Resources Board at (800) 242-4450, or
- visit the website of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at **www.nhtsa.gov**.